(f) what are the reasons that the refunds have not yet been paid to these deemed exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) On the basis of information received from Port Officers outstanding dues against payments of CCS and Supplementary Cash Assistance in lieu of Duty Drawback were assessed at Rs. 1190 crores on 6.12.91. In order to clear the payment of the above dues a sum of Rs. 410 crores was released to various licensing offices in the months of January/February, 1992 and further additional funds of Rs. 260 crores have been released on 26.3.92.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Representations from M/s. P.J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. and M/s. BHEL for payment of CCS, supplementary cash assistance in lieu of duty draw-back and refund of central excise duty have been received amounting to Rs. 19.82 crores and Rs. 74.78 crores respectively. Their claims are being processed and paid by port licensing offices. Port licensing offices have been asked to clear the dues starting with CCS against physical exports and deemed exports.

Complaint against the Working of Auction Platforms

4499. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against the working of auction platforms of Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Board has advised the traders not to hike the prices on platforms; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Encouragement of Arrivals on Tobacco Auction Platforms

4500. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrivals are low on tobacco auction platforms when compared to last year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is due to the feeling among the growers that the tobacco board ganged up with traders to depress the prices;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to encourage the arrivals;

(e) what is the time upto which the auctions will continue; and

(f) what is the target date to complete the auctions during the present reason?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons attributed are non placement of orders by Russia on exporters and non-availability of sufficient credit limits to the traders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Confirmation of individual orders to the exporters from Russia is expected shortly. After this, there is likely to be stability in the prices. Board has already taken steps to increase the arrivals.

(e) First fortnight of June, 1992.

(f) First week of June, 1992.

Discouraging production of F.C.V. Tobacco

4501. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any indication from his Ministry to the Tobacco Board to discourage production of F.C.V. variety to tobacco that was hitherto sought by erstwhile USSR;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor with what effect; and

(c) what is the extent to which, these have been realised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) The advice from Government to Tobacco

Board has always been to regulate production having regard to the market situation so that the growers do not have any difficulty in selling their produce at reasonable rates.

Ousting Indian sports goods exporters by Pakistan from International Market

4502. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is on the verge of ousting Indian sports goods exporters from key international markets;

(b) whether Pakistan has already consolidated its position in these markets by upgrading their technology by means of collaboration and technology import at a fast pace; and

(c) if so, how India contemplates to retrieve its position in foreign sports goods markets and compete with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) It is a fact that the export performance of Pakistan has always been better than Indian exports of sports goods because of certain inherent advantages such as raw materials availability etc. However, it is not correct to say that Pakistan is on the verge of ousting Indian sports goods exporters as Indian exports have also shown a steady growth:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Exports
1988-89	38.10
1989-90	55.84
1990-91	66.74
Apr'91-jan'92	49.00 (Provisional)

(Source: Sports Goods Exports Promotion Council)

Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts to make Indian sports goods competitive in world markets have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

Further, to accelerate modernisation and technological upgradation in the small scale sector in general, it has been decided to allow equity participation by other industrial undertakings, not exceeding 24% of the total shareholding. Besides, the existing Process-cum Product Development Centre at Meerut is also proposed to be modernised with assistance from UNDP. It is expected that industry would take maximum advantage of these measures.

Announcement of Deemed Export Policy

4503. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to announce deemed export policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when this policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The new Import & Export Policy effective from 1.4.92 is being formulated.

चाय बोर्ड की चाय के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने की योजना

4504. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल:** क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चाय बोर्ड चाय के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए कोई योजना बना रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यह योजना किन-किन राज्यों के लिए बनायी जायेगी; और

(घ) चाय उत्पादकों को क्या-क्या प्रोत्साहन दिये जायेंगे?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम्): (क) से (घ) चाय बोर्ड ने सं॰ 2000 ई॰ तक चाय का उत्पादन 1000 एम॰ कि॰ ग्रा॰ तक बढ़ाने के लिए एक व्यापक योजना तैयार की है। इस योजना में निवेशों को और विकसित कृषि प्रक्रियाओं को श्रेष्ठ बनाने जैसे अल्पावधि उपाय, सिंचाई नालियां, पुनःनवीकरण छंटाई और इन्फिलिंग जैसे मध्यावधि उपाय तथा पुनर्रोपण और रोपण विस्तार जैसे दीर्घावधि उपाय शामिल हैं।

चाय बोर्ड पहले ही अनेक योजनाएं चला रहा है जिनके अन्तर्गत नव रोपण, पुनर्रोपण, सिंचाई सुविधा-